

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend page 6, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

- - **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:** - -

[CLAIMS]

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An [A]pparatus for [the] continuous cold sterilization of a fluid, the apparatus comprising at least one ultraviolet radiation source and at least one duct, through which the fluid flows, permeable to such radiation [in which said fluid flows], [said] the duct having a portion that extends helically [around said] about the source, [characterised in that said] wherein the helical portion is arranged in a chamber, the walls of [which] the chamber hav[e]ing reflective surfaces, the distance between [said] the walls and [said] the helical portion being sufficient to allow [the] circulation of air therebetween [them], [said] the helical portion of the duct [for the fluid] having an elliptically-shaped passage section [with], the major axis of which is generally perpendicular to the [irradiation] direction of irradiation.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The [A]apparatus [according to] set forth in claim 1, wherein air circulation slits are formed on the walls of [said] the chamber.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The [A]apparatus [according to] set forth in claim[s] 1 [or 2], wherein the distance between the walls of [said] the chamber and [said] the helical portion is at least about 5 mm.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The [A]apparatus [according to any one of the previous] set forth in claim[s] 1, wherein [said] the ultraviolet radiation source is tubular-shaped and the major axis of the elliptical section of [said] the helical portion is generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of [said] the source.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The [A]apparatus [according to any one of the previous] set forth in claim[s] 1, wherein [outside of said chamber] an indicator light is provided outside the chamber [and] is [optically] connected optically to [said] the ultraviolet radiation source through an optical fib[er] placed either in contact with the lamp or within its [immediate] vicinity.